

# Safety Alert



## POV Safety Alert SA05-003



Over the last five months, 15 Ironhorse Soldiers have died in accidents. The one common factor in all of the accidents has been indiscipline. Soldiers knowingly take unnecessary risks having catastrophic results. This week, we lost two soldiers in a POV accident due to indiscipline. Although the accident is under investigation and all of the causes are not known yet, we do know this: The vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed, estimated at 85MPH, no seatbelts were used, and alcohol was involved; additionally, the two soldiers were new to the Army and had only been in the Division for five weeks. The soldiers were killed instantly upon impact with a retaining wall, but not before they knew of the impending collision. They hit the 4-foot tall wall with such force that it was moved off of its foundation about two feet into solid ground. The worse part of the accident is that a friend killed a friend. We do not have to wait for the accident investigation to be completed to know this: Two families are forever affected by the loss of their son's and brother's, SGLI may not be paid due to indiscipline (no seatbelt and alcohol use), and the unit and Army have lost combat power.

In order to reduce the probability of another accident **ALL** leaders and soldiers will complete the "Next Accident Assessment For Individuals" and the "Next Accident Assessment For Leaders" both contained in the POV Toolbox. These assessments, when properly completed and utilized, will identify the individual(s) that might require special attention, attitude modification, additional control measures for avoiding life's risks. Also, in keeping with the Composite Risk Assessment process, each individual needs to be evaluated as a whole person, not just against a specific task. Furthermore, each Company Commander will have a printed copy of the POV Toolbox and the Leaders Guide to using the POV Toolbox. Units may print a copy from the Army Combat Readiness Center website or the 4ID public folders under POV Safety. A limited quantity of the document is available from the Division Safety Office through your Brigade Safety Officer/NCO.

As soldiers and leaders in the Army you are responsible for your actions and/or inactions that lead to or cause an accident. You must not only know the correct standards but also enforce the correct standards all the time.

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| • Command Emphasis              | 24/7 On & Off Duty |
| • Soldier and Leader Discipline | 24/7 On & Off Duty |
| • Composite Risk Management     | 24/7 On & Off Duty |
| • Standards                     | 24/7 On & Off Duty |

Be responsible; don't risk your life or that of others.